

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 9025 – SB 9019

October 28, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the *No Patient Left Alone Act*.

Prohibits, during a period in which a disaster, emergency, or public health emergency for COVID-19 has been declared, hospitals from restricting patients from having at least one visitor to visit a patient subject to the guidelines, conditions, and limitations of the facility's normal visitation policy.

Prohibits the hospital, the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), or the Governor from terminating, suspending, or waiving these visitation rights.

Authorizes hospitals to require visitors to submit to health screenings necessary to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and to restrict a visitor who does not pass a health screening or tests positive for an infectious disease.

Requires the DOH or the DMHSAS to develop informational materials explaining these rights, and hospitals to display these materials in a conspicuous place.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Requiring hospitals to allow patients at least one visitor during declared states of disaster or emergency will not place any additional burdens or responsibilities on the state of Tennessee or local governments.
- Any fiscal impacts related to health screenings will be absorbed by private parties.
- DOH and DMHSAS can develop the informational materials utilizing existing resources.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local governments is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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